



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of Campaign & Political Finance

One Ashburton Place, Boston 02108

727-8352

January 19, 1983

AO-1

Dennis J. Duffin
Director

Alice M. Rouse, Treasurer
The Chet Atkins Committee
478 Marrett Road
Lexington, MA 02173

AO-1983-1

Dear Ms. Rouse:

This letter represents my advisory opinion relative to the leasing of a vehicle by the Chet Atkins Political Committee pursuant to G.L. c. 55, as requested in your letters of November 1982 and January 6, 1983.

In your most recent letter, you have specified the percentage of use of a leased vehicle for various purposes by the Chet Atkins Committee. In rendering this opinion, I have relied upon the representations made in your letter and in subsequent conversations.

G.L. c. 55, Section 6 provides that political committees such as yours "may receive, pay and expend money or other things of value for the enhancement of the political future of the candidate or the principle, for which the committee was organized so long as such expenditure is not primarily for the candidate's or any other person's personal use, provided, however, that the director shall establish reasonable rules and regulations concerning such expenditures..."

In addition, c. 55, Section 1 defines an expenditure as "any expenditure of money, or anything of value, by an individual, candidate or political committee for the purpose of influencing the nomination or election of said individual or candidate,...and shall include (1) any purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit or gift of money, or anything of value..."

In my opinion, the use of a vehicle to travel to and from appointments that directly relate to the responsibilities of the district as well as its use for traveling to site visits throughout the commonwealth will enhance the political future of Senator Atkins.

That portion of the use of the vehicle which you have represented will be relative to his involvement with the Democratic State Committee or any personal use must be paid for by the Senator himself. He may, of course, seek reimbursement from the Democratic State Committee for any amounts due him from it.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Dennis J. Duffin
Dennis J. Duffin
Director